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Chapter 8
PINK TO GRAY

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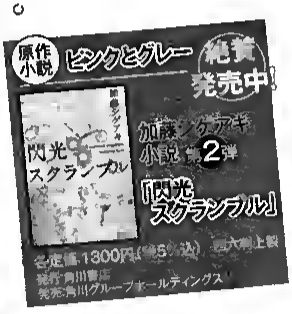
NEWS・加藤シゲアキ衝撃のデビュー作コミカライズ!!

君とずっと繋がっていられるように、
僕の全てが浸透すればいい…

If only all of me was hypo-osmotic
I could be linked to you for eternity



CHAPTER 8 PINK GRAPEFRUIT
第八章 ピンクグレープフルーツ

ピンクとグレー

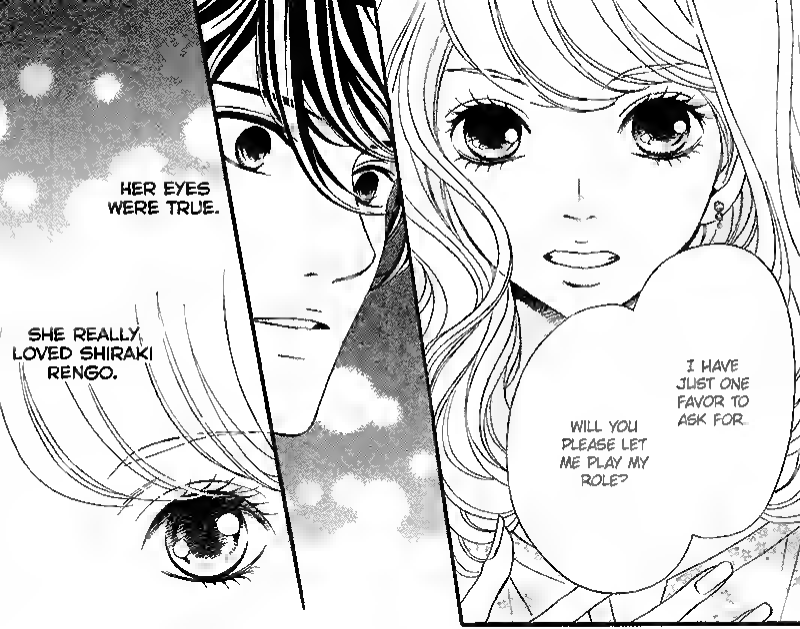
原作:加藤シゲアキ(NEWS)
作画:藤崎みお

WELL THEN, FIRST WE'LL HAVE THE AUTHOR AND MAIN ACTOR
KAWATORI -SAN, YOUR INTRODUCTION PLEASE
MY NAME IS KAWATORI DAI, I WILL BE PLAYING SHIRAKI RENGO
I PLAN ON BECOMING 'SHIRAKI' MORE THAN SHIRAKI HIMSELF WAS
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF ME

IT FEELS REAL, NOW THAT I'VE PUT IT INTO WORDS.

I WILL BECOME GOCCHI FROM HERE ON OUT.

I'M KARIN, PLAYING THE ROLE OF KARIN.
I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU.
I'M MOMOI TOMOMITSU, PLAYING KAWATORI DAI
IT'S NERVE-WRACKING PLAYING THIS CHARACTER IN FRONT OF THE REAL PERSON, BUT I WILL DO MY VERY BEST.
KARIN... I'D MISUNDERSTOOD HER.
RIGHT AFTER THE MOVIE PROJECT WAS SET IN MOTION, SHE SAID TO ME,
I READ YOUR BOOK MANY TIMES, KAWATORI-SAN
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN HELP WITH, PLEASE LET ME HELP
I WANT TO DEVOTE MYSELF TO THIS, FOR HIS SAKE...



WITH THIS, THE 5 YEAR BLANK IN WHICH WE HAD LOST CONTACT

GRADUALLY BECAME CLEARER.

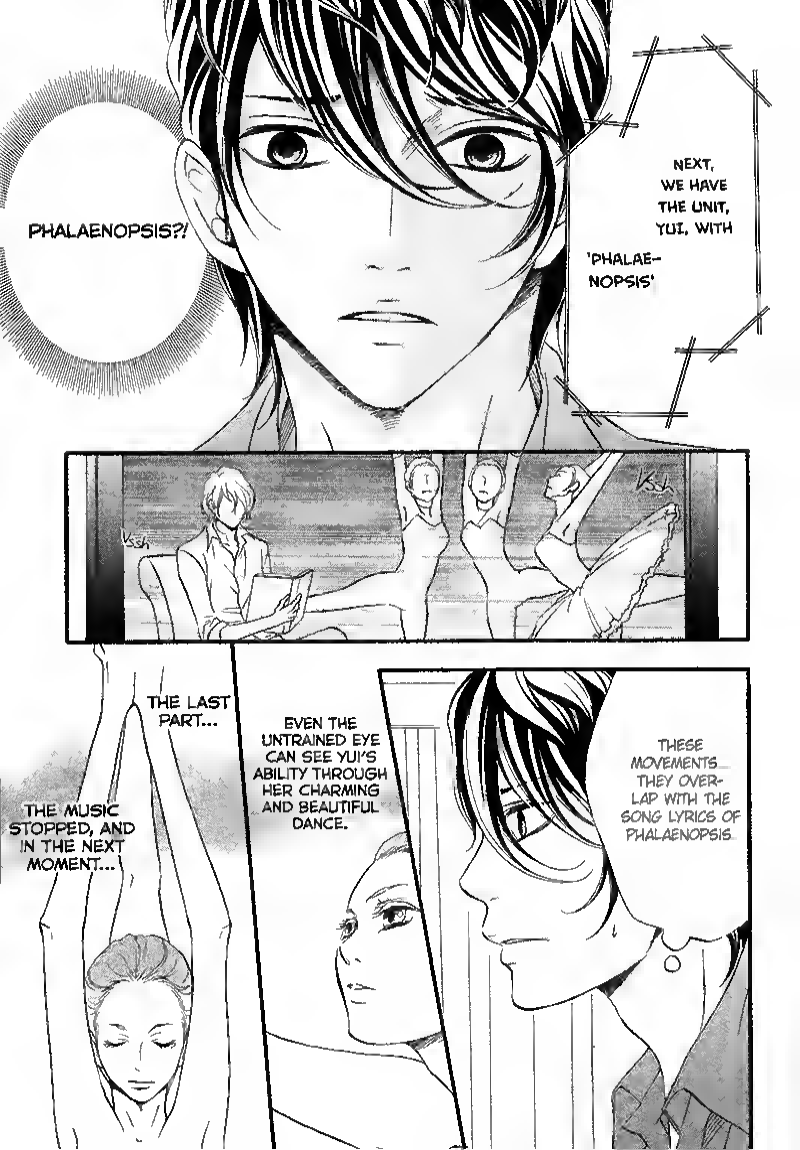
SHE TOLD ME ABOUT HIS EVERYDAY LIFE AND EVEN THE TRUTHS THAT HE'D WANTED TO HIDE IN GREAT DETAIL.
NOT ONLY HER, BUT TANAKA-SAN, ISHIKAWA,
AND MANY OTHER PEOPLE PROVIDED ME WITH INFORMATION.

I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU ALL FOR THE FILMING.
I WOULD LIKE IT TO BE DONE IN SEQUENTIAL ORDER, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
DURING THE FILMING PROCESS, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO CALL OTHERS BY THEIR CHARACTER NAMES.
I WILL MATCH MY FEET SO THAT I CAN STEP IN GOCCHI'S SHOES.
I WILL UNDERSTAND FOR THE FIRST TIME WHAT HE THOUGHT WHEN HE LED HIS LIFE WHEN I PLAY HIM.
IN OTHER WORDS, PLEASE CALL ME 'SHIRAKI' AND CALL MOMOI-KUN, 'KAWATORI.'

THE FIRST DAY OF FILMING WAS CONDUCTED AT AN APARTMENT IN YOKOHAMA.
I WAS PRESENT THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE FILMING PROCESS.
YOU'RE REALLY SHO-MO-NAI AS WELL!!!
YEAH, THAT'S TRUE, SINCE I'M BIGGER THAN YOU
FROM OUR FIRST MEETING TO PLAYING CATCH BALL...
TO THE FIREWORKS AND THE DUCK...
Quack
THE EXPLOSION...

SHOOTING BUGS WITH WATER GUNS...
THE METEOR SHOWER...
THE CHILD ACTOR PERFECTLY OVERLAPPED WITH THE GOCCHI OF MY MEMORIES.
EVEN NOW, I'M STILL BEING PULLED BACK TO THAT MOMENT.

TOMORROW, THE FILMING OF OUR TIME IN HIGH SCHOOL FINALLY BEGINS.
I CAN WATCH YUI-SAN'S VIDEO BEFORE THE START OF FILMING.
I'M GLAD THE VIDEO DECK ARRIVED IN TIME
CLACK
Yui - compe


PHALAENOPSIS?!
NEXT, WE HAVE THE UNIT, YUI, WITH 'PHALAE-NOPSIS'
Vsh
Vsh
THE LAST PART...
THE MUSIC STOPPED, AND IN THE NEXT MOMENT...
EVEN THE UNTRAINED EYE CAN SEE YUI'S ABILITY THROUGH HER CHARMING AND BEAUTIFUL DANCE.
THESE MOVEMENTS... THEY OVER-LAP WITH THE SONG LYRICS OF PHALAENOPSIS.

KYAAAH!
HER SUDDEN FALL..
SIS!
.....
THIS ISN'T RAMEN, GOCCHI!
ONCE MORE.
IT'S SLOW TO RESPOND. THE VIDEO HAS BEEN REWOUND TOO MANY TIMES
REWIND
WHAT'S THIS?
...?
THERE'S ANOTHER VIDEO BEFORE THE COMPETITION...
PLAY
CLICK
THIS IS... A SCENE FROM THE REHEARSAL?

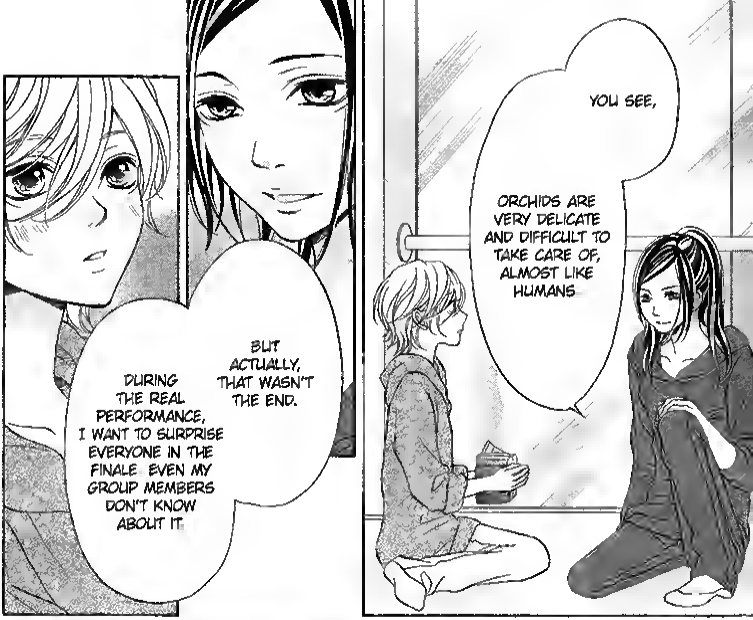
I PRESSED RECORD!
YOUNG GOCCHI'S VOICE.
Ba-dump
HIS HEART INSIDE ME SLOWLY BEGAN BEATING.
Ba-dump
Ba-dump
AS IF DOTS WERE BEING CONNECTED, 'SUZUKI SHINGO'
AND
'SHIRAKI RENGO' LINED UP AS ONE PERSON.
WITH THIS NEW INFORMATION, I REWROTE THE SCRIPT HASTILY IN PREPARATION FOR FILMING.
Flip

WEARING GOCCHI'S UNIFORM, AND PLAYING GOCCHI'S GUITAR...
I WILL REVIVE HIM NOW.
PLEASURE TO WORK WITH YOU.
WE'LL SHOOT THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL STAGE SCENE NOW!
GOCCHI SLOWLY AWAKENS.
INSIDE ME...
THE LAST SONG IS 'PHALAENOPSIS.'

RIVA-CHAN,
I'M IN NO WAY A SKILLED SINGER. I LOVED YOUR VOICE,
AND YOUR BACK, RIVA-CHAN.
MY FINGERS RHYTHMICALLY DANCE OVER THE STRINGS MORE VIGILANTLY THAN USUAL.
RIVA-CHAN'S VOICE IS REVERBERATING THROUGH THE HALL.

THAT AUTUMN DAY, I WAS ASKED TO RECORD MY BIG SISTER'S REHEARSAL..
TAP
I PRESSED RECORD!
Whoosh
WITH THE SOUND OF THE MUSIC, SHE AND HER GROUP DANCE BEAUTIFULLY IN SYNCHRONY.

REC
IT'S 'PHAL-AENOPSIS'.
HOW WAS IT?
YUI-SAN, YOU WERE GREAT.
WHAT'S THE TITLE OF THE PIECE?
WELL, IT'S THE SCIENTIFIC NAME OF THE MOTH ORCHID
OHO? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
HUH? SHINGO, YOU UNDERSTOOD WHAT IT WAS ABOUT?
I SEE, SO THAT'S WHY YOU PERFORMED IT IN THAT WAY
NOPE, NOT AT ALL.


YOU SEE,
ORCHIDS ARE VERY DELICATE AND DIFFICULT TO TAKE CARE OF, ALMOST LIKE HUMANS.
BUT ACTUALLY, THAT WASN'T THE END.
DURING THE REAL PERFORMANCE, I WANT TO SURPRISE EVERYONE IN THE FINALE. EVEN MY GROUP MEMBERS DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT.

SHINGO, YOU SHOULD DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO THE BEST YOU CAN.
NOT THE THINGS YOU WANT TO DO, BUT THE THINGS YOU CAN DO.
THAT'S WHAT I'M DOING THIS TIME.

Smile
I'LL TEACH YOU THE PRAYING POSE AFTER-WARDS
'KAY!
ON THE DAY OF THE COMPETITION, I WAS RECORDING HER AND THE GROUP USING THE SAME VIDEO CAMERA.
MY SISTER DANCING ON THE STAGE WAS AS BEAUTIFUL AS ALWAYS,
BUT TODAY WAS SPECIAL.

HER POSE REACHED EVEN HIGHER THAN IN REHEARSAL.
Wow...
THIS REALLY IS BREATH-TAKING.
ON TOP OF THIS BUILDING FORMED OF INTERWOVEN PEOPLE, MY SISTER POSED AT THE VERY TOP.
Ta-dah
UPROARIOUS APPLAUSE AND...
IN THE NEXT MOMENT,
Clap
Clap
Clap
AS MY SISTER WAS BEAUTIFULLY AND UNSTEADILY ROTATING...
SHE FELL.

HOW FAR HAD MY SISTER CALCULATED THAT?

I STILL DON'T KNOW.

BUT AFTER THIS, THE COMPETITION CREATED A SPECIAL PRIZE CALLED THE *YUI* AWARD.

I IMMEDIATELY DECIDED FOR THE SONG TO BE ABOUT 'PHALAENOPSIS.'
IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A REQUIEM FOR MY SISTER.
GOCCHI,
WHY DON'T WE COMPOSE A SONG TOGETHER FOR THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL?
WHAT?
I WANT RIVA-CHAN TO SING IT.
HE'S THE PRECIOUS PERSON WHO ALWAYS FILLS THE HOLLOWNESS INSIDE ME, LIKE DURING THE TIMES WITH MY SISTER AND SALLY.
I WANT TO HEAR THIS SONG SUNG IN RIVA-CHAN'S VOICE.

RAN.
RAN.
RAN.
RAN.
RAN.
THE SECOND WE PERFORMED PHALAENOPSIS, I FELT WHAT IT MEANT TO BE ON STAGE.
THIS PLACE... THIS SENSATION...
THE COLD, GLITTERING SCENERY I COULD SEE FROM THERE.
THIS WAS THE WORLD THAT HAD FASCINATED MY SISTER!
BUT...
WHEN I TRIED TO CAPTURE WHAT EXACTLY IT WAS,
OUR PERFORMANCE HAD ENDED.

...THANK YOU.
SHIRAKI-SAN, SOME WATER.
Shock
BREAK TIME!
NO...
I FEEL STRANGE.
BUT IS IT JUST MY IMAGINATION?
IT'S JUST AS IF GOCCHI'S FEELINGS WERE FLOWING INTO ME...
22
WE'RE CONTINUING!

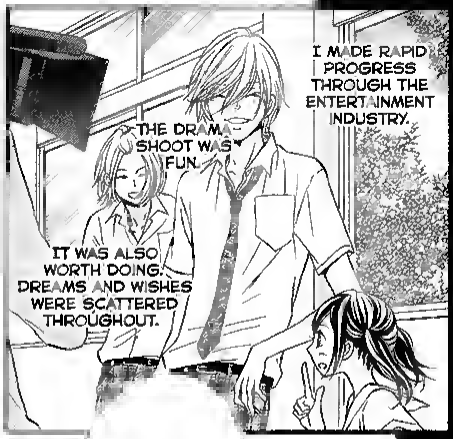
AT THAT TIME, I WAS SCOUTED.
I WANT TO TRY GOING BY MY SISTER'S POLICY AND DO TTHINGS THAT WOULD BRING ME CLOSER TO HER.
EVER SINCE THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL, I VAGUELY THOUGHT THAT I WANTED TO UNDERSTAND THE EXPRESSIVITY OF PERFORMERS THAT MY SISTER HAD SO SET HERSELF ON.
LET'S DO IT! THE MODELING JOB!
TO TELL THE TRUTH,
AS LONG AS I COULD PERFORM, ANYWHERE WOULD'VE BEEN FINE.
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD SAY THAT.

THAT DAY,
I RECEIVED A GREAT GIFT.
SALLY?
THE WORLD STOPPED.
FOR A MOMENT,
THE PART OF MY BRAIN THAT I HAD PUT INTO COLD SLEEP BEGAN TO THAW.

THE FEELINGS I'D ALWAYS WANTED TO CONVEY TO HER...
YOU WON'T DISAPPEAR ANYMORE, RIGHT?
NO, I WON'T.
THEY WERE STILL FRESH BECAUSE THEY'D BEEN FROZEN.
AT THE TREE-LIGHTING FESTIVAL,
THE CHRISTMAS TREE WAS GLIMMERING BRIGHTLY,
AND THE SONGS GIVING PRAISE TO THE HOLY NIGHT WERE WAVERING THROUGH THE COLD AIR.
HEHE,
LITERALLY, 'STAND BY ME,' RIGHT?
PLEASE STAY BESIDE ME FOREVER.

STAND BY ME
I'M COUNTING ON YOU TOO.
ONE GOOD-BYE IS MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR ME
I REALLY LOVED HER.
BY MY SIDE WERE MY BELOVED RIVA-CHAN AND MY DEAR SALLY.

CUT!
SHIRAKI -SAN'
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? IF YOU'RE TIRED, THEN WE CAN TAKE A BREAK.
...I'M FINE.
Rustle
WHAT IS THIS SENSA-TION...?
SHIRAKI AND I ARE DEFINITELY TWO SEPARATE PEOPLE.
JUST, THE CHARACTER OF SHIRAKI IS GRADUALLY ABSORBING ME...
NO, MORE LIKE IT'S ERODING ME...


I MADE RAPID PROGRESS THROUGH THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY.
THE DRAMA SHOOT WAS FUN.
IT WAS ALSO WORTH DOING. DREAMS AND WISHES WERE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT.

'THERE'S NO WAY I WOULDN'T DO IT.' I ADDED THAT IMPROV.

PLEASE GIVE KAWATORI DAI SOME LINES
I WANT TO ACT TOGETHER WITH HIM!
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO DO? IF IT'S POSSIBLE, LET'S DO IT.

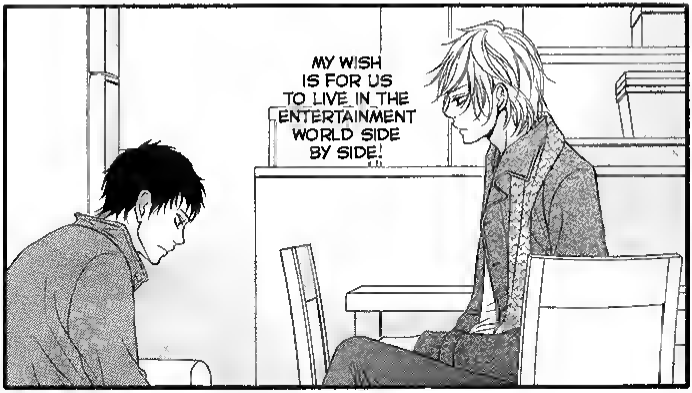
WITH THIS AS A TRIGGER, I'M SURE RIVA-CHAN WILL GET MORE OF A REPUTATION AS WELL
IF I COULD LIVE IN THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY WITH RIVA-CHAN,
HOW MUCH FUN THAT WOULD BE?!
Excited
Excited
LOOKING OVER THE SCRIPT TOGETHER WAS THE BEST.
THIS WAS ALL THE JOY IN THE WORLD
BUT EVEN AFTER THAT, HE GOT NO BIG BREAKS WHILE I GOT MORE AND MORE JOBS.
THE PEOPLE I CROSSED PATHS WITH FLATTERED ME.
AND ESCORTS BY THE MAN GER...
EXPENSIVE CLOTHES,
MEETINGS IN LUXURY RESTAURANTS,
I HAD THE FORTUNE OF ALL THESE EXPERIENCES DUE TO ACTING.

Whir
Whir
WELCOME BACK.
I WAS A COMPLETE PRISONER.
IT WAS CLEAR THAT ANY SCENERY OUTSIDE THAT WORLD BECAME HAZIER.
I DON'T WANT TO SEE RIVA-CHAN LIKE THAT
NO.
SOMEONE LIKE THAT HAD NOW STOPPED SEVERAL KILOMETERS BEHIND ME.
PLEASE, TRY HARDER!
I WON'T STOP ANYMORE.
START RUNNING SO HARD THAT YOU'LL OVERTAKE ME, PLEASE!
RIVA-CHAN WAS ALWAYS IN FRONT OF ME.
HE WAS MY HERO.

KOIDEMIZU -SAN!
DIDN'T I ASK YOU TO HAVE RIVA-CHAN APPEAR WITH ME IN MY JOBS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE?
OH, THAT.
KAWATORI TURNED IT DOWN.
WHY?!
HUH.
DOES HE NOT WANT TO ACT TOGETHER?
LET'S LOOK OVER THE SCRIPT TOGETHER IN OUR APARTMENT AGAIN.
OR DOES HE NOT WANT TO BE TOGETHER WITH ME ANYMORE?
I'M AT MY LIMIT.

THERE ARE ONLY TWO RESPONSES POSSIBLE.

TO TAKE IT OR TO TURN IT DOWN.



RIVA-CHAN, PLEASE USE ME.

I'LL PAY ALL THE RENT, SO PLEASE QUIT YOUR PART-TIME JOB AND CONCENTRATE FULLY ON YOUR CAREER.

IF YOU DO THAT, SURELY, YOU'LL ALSO...

DOES ISHIKAWA KNOW EVERY-THING?
NO, SHE DOESN'T KNOW.
I DIDN'T TELL ANYONE. THIS IS A PROB-LEM BETWEEN THE TWO OF US. IF I DIDN'T TELL YOU, WHO ELSE WOULD I TELL?
YES, SHE KNOWS.
I WON'T LIVE THERE.
I CAN'T LIVE TOGETHER WITH YOU THE WAY YOU ARE NOW, GOCCHI.
MY LIE WAS SUPPOSED TO STIR HIM UP, BUT IT MISFIRED.
BOm

RIVA-CHAN,

SOMETIMES THE WORLD STOPS FOR ME,

BUT THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY IS DIFFERENT. THERE IS ONLY PLAY OR PAUSE.

✠ NEXT TIME, THE SHOCKING FINALE...!

7月号 5月24日発売 につづく ★ To be Continued...